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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Skszek et al

Serial No.: 09/851,601

Group No.: 1762

Filed: May 9, 2001

Examiner: E. Fuller

For: FABRICATION OF ALLOY VARIANT STRUCTURES USING DIRECT METAL DEPOSITION

AMENDMENT

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TC 1700

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed October 1, 2002, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 2-5 with the following:

This application claims priority of U.S. provisional patent application Serial No. 60/202,590, filed May 9, 2000; and is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/670,670, filed Sept. 27, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,472,029; which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/570,986, filed May 15, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,410,105; which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/107,912, filed June 20, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,122,564, the entire content of each application being incorporated herein by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace current claim 1 with the following:

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